

# Miss Rashleigh Presents List Of Carbondale's Famous 'Firsts'

Miss Alice Voyle Rashleigh in today's installment of her historical sketch of Carbondale, tells of the organization of the Columbia Hose company and of the forming of the Crystal Lake Water Company. In addition she presents a long list of Carbondale "Firsts". This presentation is the fourth in the series of installments of Miss Rashleigh's contribution of The News.

We now turn you over to Miss Rashleigh:

All these fires led to the purchase of the "Old Jumper", a fire engine worked by hand, with the hose extending into the river. Grandfather Voyle with other men, formed a committee that went to Albany to purchase this fire apparatus.

A number of fire companies had been formed but soon disbanded for lack of support, but on November 6, 1856, 96 men became the COLUMBIA HOSE COMPANY. No. 5. Tommy Voyle, my grandfather, was a charter member and that is why the present members have honored me with a membership, a gold honorary membership pin, membership card No. 5, and a basket of roses on my 50th anniversary as a teacher in the City Schools. So I have fire protection as well as police protection which I used Christmas evening when the taxi service failed me and I had to get home from a Christmas dinner. The Police Car came to my rescue, landing me safe and sound at 6 River Street.

The firemen of the '50's wore red flannel shirts, black trousers, and regular fire helmets. I used to play fireman, with an old helmet that belonged to Tommy oyle.

In cold weather the hose would freeze in the river and it was realized that a water system was needed. The Crystal Lake Water Company was formed in 1859 and from then on the city had real fire protection. These volunteer firemen have served the city well and many a stubborn fire has been brought under control with no thought being given to their own welfare and safety. Both the Columbia's and the Mitchell's have given us wonderful service. Feb. 12, was the 54th anniversary of the organization of the Mitchell Hose Company, and Nov. 6 will be the 90th anniversary of the founding of the Columbia's but they will celebrate with A WELCOME HOME OBSERVANCE in May.

Many were the efforts to start fires in this "burg" and many succeeded. Once in a downtown store a candle in a bottle of kerosene was placed in a cellar-way. As it burned down, the oil was ignited and "Bang"—the thing was done. This city certainly had plenty of fire bugs, but that didn't stop its progress.

James Archbald, our first mayor, took the oath of office in the Methodist Episcopal church.

On Salem avenue corner of Church street (south), there was a marble yard where they made tombstones. We children loved to get pieces on our way to school.

John Dimock was often late in opening his store on Salem avenue near Main street. One morning he found a tombstone in front of his door inscribed "Not dead, but sleeping". This same John Dimock, falling down Main street after the

clock, a gift to Tom Durfee, had been installed, was heard to remark as he looked up at it: "Well, Tom, Durfee's time has come at last."

Deacon Young was first to superintend work for the coal industry. Rev. Noble, the first minister here, married Mr. Poor and Miss Harriet Townsend on Feb. 9, 1831. It was one of the first weddings in our infant village. The snow was three feet deep, but they had secured sleighs to take them to Honesdale for their wedding trip and honeymoon.

Mahala Frisbie was the first child born—March 17, 1822, before the town had a name. Her father was a pioneer lumberman.

Helen Blanchard was the first born in Carbondale.

Thomas Sweet was the first doctor.

The first schools, 1831, located between Presbyterian and Methodist church sites 2 one room schools.

Presbyterian church organized 1829 and built in 1834.

Methodist church organized 1830 built—1832.

First storekeeper, Salmon Lathrop.

First Postmaster, James Goff.

First postoffice, 1829 in north wing of Lathrop's store, Main street, where Davis's Taxi Service now operates.

First President of Youth's Temperance Society, Samuel Raynor, "Band of Hope".

First editor—Amzi Wilson, "The Northern Pennsylvanian", a Democratic paper.

First Foundry, where Baptist church is now located.

First contractor, Henry Johnston who built many of the houses.

First cemetery, 1831, land given by D. & H. to Protestants.

First Drug store, Dr. Carter and Brundage—1832.

First locomotive—1870.

First machine shop, 1831, where Stone building now stands. Other shops near where Gravity cars were built.

First foundry—1833, Church and Foundry streets. Cast wheels for D. & H. cars. Alanson Reed and Afiran Gurney.

First Stove Foundry—Seventh Street west of the river, 1843. Lindsay and Early later owned it.

First teachers—Mr. Evarts and B. G. Root, S. S. Benedict—Graded school teacher, 1837—John Kelly, 1849.

First principal graded school, Salem avenue. A. J. Wells.

First commencement, 1847.

Private schools—1833, Sophia Nobles; 1836, in Catholic chapel, John Walsh; 1838, School for Young Ladies, Mrs. Hudson; Mrs. Hamilton and Mrs. Munger established fine records as Private school instructors.